

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 51-95 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been canceled and Claims 51-95 have been added by the present amendment.

As noted in the preliminary amendment filed along with the application, this application is a continuation application of parent serial no. 10/059,187, filed on January 31, 2002, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,665,508. This supplemental preliminary amendment adds new Claims 51-95 to set forth the invention in a varying scope, and Applicants submit that the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification, including now-canceled Claims 1-50. Thus, no new matter is introduced by the foregoing amendment.

In particular, new Claims 51-59 are directed to a toner container in which a diameter of the valve substantially matches a diameter of the nozzle. For example, this feature is shown in the non-limiting example of Figure 6, in which the diameter D2 of valve hole 36 substantially matches the diameter D1 of nozzle 51. Claims 60-86 are similar to Claims 51-60, but are arranged as means-plus-function claims, method claims, and claims directed to a toner replenishing device similar to that as discussed above. Claims 87-95 are directed to a toner container in which the diameter of the shutter and a diameter of the nozzle are of sizes such that toner contained in the container body is prevented from exiting between the mouthpiece member and the nozzle when the nozzle protrudes into the shutter.

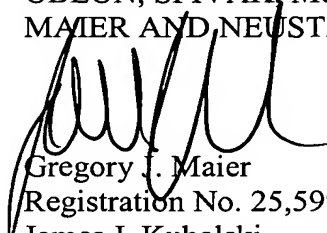
The specification has also been amended to correct minor informalities that were corrected in the parent case. No new matter has been added by these changes.

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Consequently, an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER AND NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
James J. Kubalski
Registration No. 34,648
Attorney of Record

Customer Number

22850

Tel.: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220

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